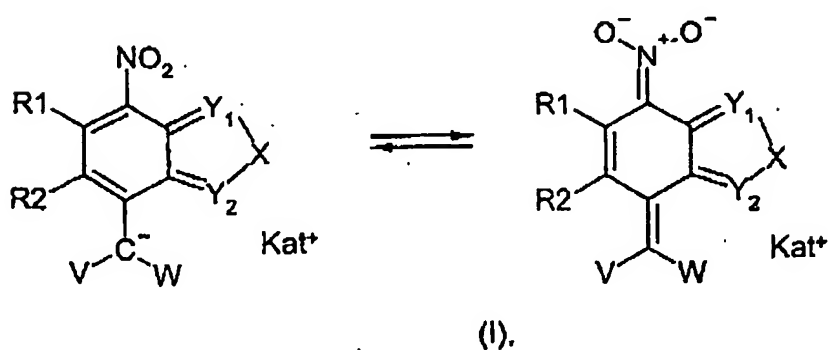


In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 1 to 10 without prejudice and add the following claims 11 to 20:

11(new). A 7-nitro-2,1,3-benzoxadiazole or 7-nitro-2,1,3-benzthiadiazole compound of formula (I):



wherein X is sulfur or oxygen;

Y_1 and Y_2 are the same or different and, independently of each other, each represent a nitrogen atom or a nitrogen monoxide group;

R_1 and R_2 are the same or different and, independently of one another, each represent hydrogen, a halogen atom, a (C₁-C₄)-alkyl group, a substituted (C₁-C₄)-alkyl group substituted with a halogen atom, a (C₁-C₄)-alkoxy group, a nitro group or an NR^aR^b group, the R^a and R^b are the same or different and, independently of one another, each represent hydrogen, a (C₁-C₄)-alkyl group, an optionally substituted, aromatic carbocyclic group or a (C₁-C₄)-alkane carbonyl group;

V and W together form an aliphatic ring, an aromatic isocyclic ring or a heterocyclic ring system; and

Kat⁺ represents an alkali cation, an alkaline earth cation, a quaternary ammonium group, a quaternary phosphonium group or a sulfonium group.

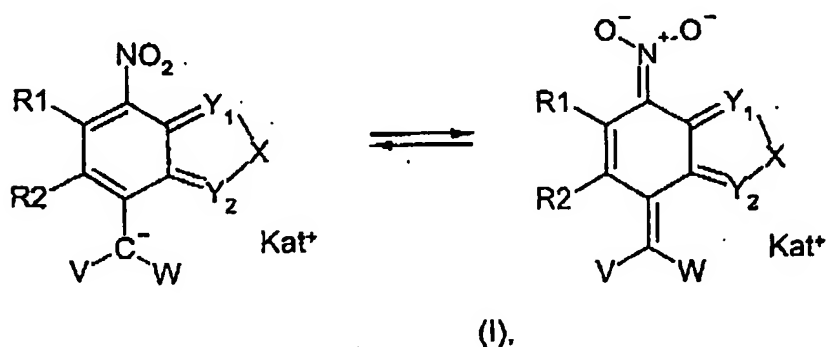
12(new). The compound as defined in claim 11, wherein said R1 and said R2, independently of one another, each represent a hydrogen, a halogen atom, a (C₁-C₄)-alkyl group or a nitro group.

13(new). The compound as defined in claim 11, wherein said 7-nitro-2,1,3-benzoxadiazole compound of formula (I) is selected from the group consisting of 4-(dihydro-2,4,6(1H,5H)-pyrimidinetrione-5-yl)-7-nitro-2,1,3-benzoxadiazole sodium salt, 4-(4,5-dihydro-3-methyl-1-phenyl-1H-pyrazole-5-one-4-yl)-7-nitro-2,1,3-benzoxadiazole sodium salt, 4-(1,3-cyclohexane-dione-2-yl)-7-nitro-2,1,3-benzoxadiazole sodium salt, 4-(dihydro-2-thioxo-4,6(1H,5H)-pyrimidine-dione-5-yl)-7-nitro-2,1,3-benzoxadiazole-1-oxide sodium salt, 4-(1,3-dioxoindan-2-yl)-7-nitro-2,1,3-benzoxadiazole sodium salt, 4-(2-oxo-2,3-dihydro-1H-indole-3-yl)-7-nitro-2,1,3-benzoxadiazole sodium salt, 4-(4-oxo-2-thioxothiazolidine-5-yl)-7-nitro-2,1,3-benzoxadiazole sodium salt and 4-(dihydro-6-thioxo-2,4-(1H,5H)-pyrimidinedione-3-yl)-7-nitro-2,1,3-benzoxadiazole sodium salt.

14(new). The compound as defined in claim 11, wherein said 7-nitro-2,1,3-benzthiadiazole compound of formula (I) is selected from the group consisting of 4-(dihydro-2,4,6(1H,5H)-pyrimidine-trione-5-yl)-7-nitro-2,1,3-benzthiadiazole sodium salt, 4-(4,5-dihydro-3-methyl-1-phenyl-1H-pyrazole-5-one-4-yl)-7-nitro-

2,1,3-benzthiadiazole sodium salt, 4-(1,3-cyclohexane-dione-2-yl)-7-nitro-2,1,3-benzthiadiazole sodium salt, 4-(dihydro-2-thioxo-4,6(1H,5H)-pyrimidine-dione-5-yl)-7-nitro-2,1,3-benzthiadiazole-1-oxide sodium salt, 4-(1,3-dioxindan-2-yl)-7-nitro-2,1,3-benzthiadiazole sodium salt, 4-(2-oxo-2,3-dihydro-1H-indole-3-yl)-7-nitro-2,1,3-benzthiadiazole sodium salt, 4-(4-oxo-2-thioxothiazolidine-5-yl)-7-nitro-2,1,3-benzthiadiazole sodium salt and 4-(dihydro-6-thioxo-2,4-(1H,5H)-pyrimidine-dione-3-yl)-7-nitro-2,1,3-benzthiadiazole sodium salt.

15(new). An agent for dyeing keratin fibers, wherein the agent contains at least one 7-nitro-2,1,3-benzoxadiazole or 7-nitro-2,1,3-benzthiadiazole compound of formula (I):



wherein X is sulfur or oxygen;

Y_1 and Y_2 are the same or different and, independently of each other, each represent a nitrogen atom or a nitrogen monoxide group;

R_1 and R_2 are the same or different and, independently of one another, each represent hydrogen, a halogen atom, a (C_1-C_4) -alkyl group, a substituted (C_1-C_4) -alkyl group substituted with a halogen atom, a (C_1-C_4) -alkoxy group, a nitro group or an NR^aR^b group, the R^a and R^b are the same or different and, independently of

one another, each represent hydrogen, a (C₁-C₄)-alkyl group, an optionally substituted, aromatic carbocyclic group or a (C₁-C₄)-alkane carbonyl group; V and W together form an aliphatic or aromatic isocyclic or heterocyclic ring system; and

Kat⁺ represents an alkali cation, an alkaline earth cation, a quaternary ammonium group, a quaternary phosphonium group or a sulfonium group.

16(new). The agent as defined in claim 15, containing from 0.01 to 10 percent by weight of said at least one 7-nitro-2,1,3-benzoxadiazole or 7-nitro-2,1,3-benz-thiadiazole compound of formula (I) .

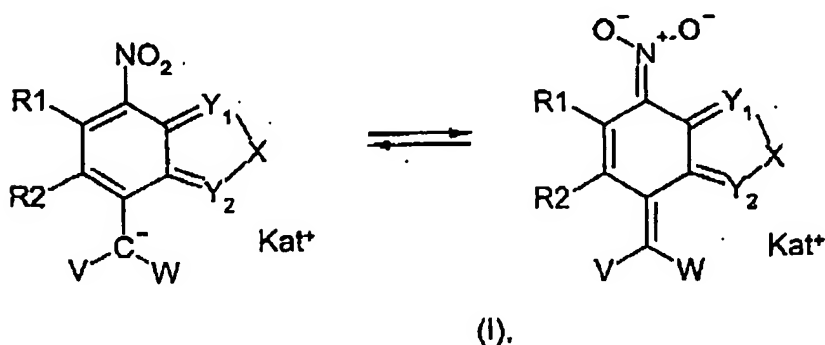
17(new). The agent as defined in claim 15, containing at least one substantive dye ingredient selected from the group consisting of anionic dyes, cationic dyes, nonionic dyes, amphoteric dyes, nitro dyes, azo dyes, anthraquinone dyes and dispersion dyes.

18(new). The agent as defined in claim 15, containing at least one polymer selected from the group consisting of natural polymers, synthetic polymers and modified polymers of natural origin and wherein said at least one polymer is a shade fastener or color fastener.

19(new). The agent as defined in claim 15, consisting of a hair-dyeing agent.

20(new). A method of dyeing hair, said method comprising the steps of:

a) providing an agent for dyeing hair containing at least one 7-nitro-2,1,3-benzoxadiazole or 7-nitro-2,1,3-benzthiadiazole compound of formula (I):



wherein X is sulfur or oxygen;

Y_1 and Y_2 are the same or different and, independently of each other, each represent a nitrogen atom or a nitrogen monoxide group;

R_1 and R_2 are the same or different and, independently of one another, each represent hydrogen, a halogen atom, a (C_1-C_4) -alkyl group, a substituted (C_1-C_4) -alkyl group substituted with a halogen atom, a (C_1-C_4) -alkoxy group, a nitro group or an NR^aR^b group, the R^a and R^b are the same or different and, independently of one another, each represent hydrogen, a (C_1-C_4) -alkyl group, an optionally substituted, aromatic carbocyclic group or a (C_1-C_4) -alkane carbonyl group;

V and W together form an aliphatic or aromatic isocyclic or heterocyclic ring

system; and Kat^+ represents an alkali cation, an alkaline earth cation, a quaternary ammonium group, a quaternary phosphonium group or a sulfonium group;

b) applying the agent to the hair in an amount sufficient for the dyeing of the hair, depending on an amount of the hair to be dyed;

c) allowing the agent applied in step b) to act on the hair at from 15° to 45°C for about 1 to 60 minutes; and

d) then rinsing the hair, optionally washing the hair with a shampoo and subsequently drying the hair.